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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1

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FOREIGN RADIO REACTIONS TO THE INVASION OF SOUTH KOREA, 26 JUNE 1950

INTRODUCTION: To judge by monitored broadcasts, practically all radios of the world are devoting considerable time to reportage of the invasion of South Korea. As yet, however, there have been few extended commentaries on the subject.

THE COMMUNIST RADIOS: The North Korean radio at Pyongyang continues to broadcast a version designed to create the impression that it was the American-controlled "Rhee gang" which invaded North Korea, and that the North Korean action was therefore a justified counter-move. This is the version that has been picked up and relayed, without comment as yet, by Radio Moscow and the Satellite radios. (An Austrian Communist paper, however, charges on its own responsibility that the alleged South Korean invasion of North Korea represents the culmination of a "long-prepared American war provocation.") Radio Moscow has also begun to quote details of the fighting as reported by Western news services; today's PRAVDA publishes such details, as well as the original North Korean claim that South Korean forces "launched surprise invasions against areas north of the 38th parallel throughout its entire breadth."

Radio Pyongyang has broadcast few references to the fighting in terms of full-scale war. But general mobilization has reportedly been ordered in North Korea; there are Pyongyang broadcast references to South Korean cities that have already been "liberated" (the Soviet-Communist euphemism for taking over); and the Pyongyang radio stresses Syngman Rhee's intention to incite, and his responsibility for, a Korean civil war. Radio Moscow purportedly quoted a Pyongyang broadcast to the effect that the North Korean government has "entrusted the Ministry of Home Affairs to take decisive measures to subdue the enemy in the event the South Korean puppet authorities fail to put an immediate end to this war venture...."

Radio Pyongyang makes much of the issue of Korean unification. It is claimed that the North Koreans have done practically everything in their power to bring about peaceful unification of the country, but that such unification has consistently been obstructed by the "Rhee gang" under orders from the Americans. Such claims appear in the context of references to the alleged invasion launched by the South Koreans. Pyongyang broadcasts also indicate that a considerable effort is being made to instill "hate and hostility against the enemy," the enemy being defined as the "Rhee gang" obedient to the American imperialists. There have also been a few references to the North Koreans' "powerful fighting might."

WESTERN-ORIENTED COMMENT: Speculations aired over Western-oriented radios include statements that this might be the beginning of the feared third world war; that the outcome in Korea will be decisive for the future of all Asia, particularly Southeast Asia; and that American prestige and influence in Asia will stand or fall depending on the type of action the United States undertakes in support of the South Koreans.

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FOREIGN RADIO REACTIONS TO THE SITUATION IN KOREA, 27 JUNE 1950

SUMMARY: The Communist Pyongyang radio, echoed by all other Communist media throughout the world, continues to maintain the fiction of North Korean "counterattacks" on forces invading from the south. But as early as a day after the fighting began, a series of Pyongyang broadcasts themselves belie this fiction and reveal in unmistakable terms that the North Korean offensive was launched as an "all-out war of righteousness" for complete annihilation of the Rhee regime, for the "liberation" of all South Korea, and for "unification of the Fatherland." One of these broadcasts--the appeal by the North Korean leader Kim Il Sung--has already been picked up and repeated by TASS. But, although devoting reportage to the Korean situation, Moscow has not yet issued any comment beyond the contention that the U.N. Security Council's action on 25 June was devoid of any legal power since it did not stem from a unanimous vote by the Council's permanent members. Pyongyang, in its first comment on the Council's resolution, repeats this point; but it also flouts U.N. authority over the Korean situation "because, first, the U.N. did not approve the membership" of North Korea and because North Korea "did not participate in the discussion."

There continues to be a paucity of independent comment from European Satellite radios. One of them is brash enough to claim that the South Korean "provocation" was inspired by American imperialist desire to "discredit the world peace campaign" (which, as a result of the North Korean action, has been sarcastically derided over several Western radios). It is said that the "provocation" must be met by renewed "peace-partisan" efforts against the atomic bomb and the threat of war, a sentiment echoed by the French Communist HUMANITE. (Radio Moscow's "peace" propaganda, by the way, appears to be continuing at full force.)

A rough tabulation of the great number of Western-oriented comments indicates that the following ideas were most stressed, in the order given: (1) intense interest in what the U.S. will do and in the effect of this action on U.S. prestige, influence, and leadership; (2) concern about the possibility of a spreading conflagration; (3) the possible repercussions in Asia as a whole, but particularly in Southeast Asia; (4) the exposed "phony" character of the Soviet-Communist "peace" offensive. Early comment from Western-oriented radios expressed grave concern about the possibility of an immediately larger East-West military clash that might result from American action and Communist counter-action in Asia; but the more recent comments show somewhat less concern over such a prospect.

KIM IL SUNG'S APPEAL FOR SUPPORT OF THE "ALL-OUT WAR": The North Korean broadcast most squarely contradicting the Communist fiction of a North Korean "counterattack" was issued, with Kim Il Sung himself at the microphone, slightly more than 24 hours after the fighting began. In it, Kim treats the fighting as an actual war, spelling out the North Korean objectives and issuing directives for total North Korean conversion "to a wartime basis" and for South Korean sabotage and "partisan" resistance. These are outlined below.

Objectives

1. Defense of the "Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its constitution."
2. Complete defeat of the South Korean armed forces and elimination of the "fascist Rhee puppet regime."
3. Complete "liberation of the southern half of our Fatherland" from the rule of the "Rhee traitor gang" and enslavement by the American imperialists.
4. Restoration in the "southern half" of the "people's committees, the true people's governments, under the banner of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea."
5. "Unification of the Fatherland and the establishment of a powerful, democratic, independent Korea."

North Korea's Total War Effort

1. The Army. The "people's armed forces must demonstrate their valor, courage, and initiative in the struggle to defend--at the cost of death--the northern half, to save our fellow countrymen in the southern half, and to unify the Fatherland." They must not spare their lives. They "are equipped with crack modern arms" and should fight with "noble determination."
2. The People. All northern business must be "converted to wartime basis. All resources must be mobilized in order to mop up the enemy quickly and mercilessly." All saboteurs, rumormongers, and spies must be detected and purged. "All those who obstruct the waging of the all-out war... must be executed." Industrial workers must defend all their establishments from enemy violations and "faithfully fulfill production quotas and other tasks so as to fill the requirements from the battlefronts." Farmers must insure the armed forces' food supplies.

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South Korean Partisan and Sabotage Activities

1. The Partisans. Intensify offensives, absorb the masses, cut off communications lines, execute traitors, restore people's committees, carry out destruction, stir confusion in the enemy's rear areas.
2. Workers. Organize general strikes, stage riots, and collaborate with the partisans. "But defend factories, establishments, mines, and railways."
3. Farmers. Do not give food to the enemy. Engage in guerrilla warfare. Defend this year's crops.
4. Individual Industrialists. "Extend aid to the people's armed forces and cooperate in the struggle to free our national economy from the American monopolists."
5. Intellectuals. Participate in a "mass political publicity campaign. Mercilessly expose the crimes of the Rhee traitor gang.... Organize mass riots."
6. The Southern Armed Forces. "Don't miss the opportunity to fight for the Fatherland and turn your guns against the Rhee traitor gang. Come over to the side of the people.... By rising in opposition to the people's enemies you will occupy honorable places in the column of the fighters for freedom and independence."

This broadcast has been followed by others along similar lines, addressed individually to "people of the southern half," youth, women, workers, etc. "Concentrate our might in the war to oppose the American imperialists and the U.N. Korean Commission, and to overthrow and smash the Syngman Rhee gang."

Other broadcasts have described the "mass meetings that are being held everywhere in liberated areas to welcome the people's armed forces." "People's Committees" are allegedly being restored in an atmosphere of jubilation, enthusiasm, and pledges that the "new government shall never again be usurped by reactionary fascists."

NON-KOREAN COMMUNIST COMMENT: Broadcasts from Communist-controlled radios outside Korea have been limited primarily to reports of North Korean successes and to quotations from the North Korean radio. (It has been reported, without confirmation as yet, that Radio Moscow interrupted a regular transmission to announce that North Korean tanks had entered Seoul.) As is so often the case, however, the Soviet-controlled Berlin radio is less reticent about issuing an independent commentary which cites a statement by Defense Secretary Johnson and the "speed with which the U.S. reacted to the outbreak of hostilities in Korea" as "ample proof that the Korean adventure has been well prepared in advance by the Americans." The "U.S. warmongers" are said to "regard the Korea fighting as an opportunity for testing the vigilance of the peace-loving nations and their defensive strength." (This, it may be noted, is nothing but an inversion of the motives attributed by several Western-oriented radios to the actions of the Communists in Korea.) Dragging in the "peace campaign," the commentator warns that the American-sponsored "provocation" in Korea must be met by heightened "peace" efforts; for the defenders of peace have learned from the experience of the two world wars that if the U.S. warmongers are today transforming the cold war in the Far East into a hot war, they will tomorrow drop atom bombs on Europe. That is what we are up against."

YUGOSLAV BROADCASTS: To date, the Yugoslav radio has devoted its broadcasts about Korea to reports rather than comment; and Belgrade says that the Yugoslav press is reporting "news agency accounts of operations and announcements of both sides of the conflict." The radio reports the Security Council resolution, but says nothing about Yugoslavia's abstention. Belgrade also reports that the U.S. places "responsibility for the armed clash... on the Soviet Union, since the Democratic Republic of Korea is under its domination."

WESTERN-ORIENTED COMMENT: The ideas most frequently stressed in Western-oriented comment have been indicated in the "summary" section above. Other reactions, expressed less frequently, include the following:

Reasons for the North Korean invasion

To test American reaction.

A "trial of nerves."

To convince the people in Asia that they can expect no real help from the United Nations.

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Implications for Europe

Parallels drawn between what happened in Korea and what could be expected in Germany if a peace treaty is drawn and occupation forces withdrawn.

Deplorable effects of a South Korean collapse on European countries which regard the U.S. as the only country capable of assuring the defense of the free world.

Other

The supreme test to which the U.N. is now put.

The possibility of Korea's becoming another Spain.

The U.S. dilemma: if active measures are taken, there is a danger of world war; if not, U.S. impotence will be revealed and will prevent efforts to organize Asia against Communism from being taken seriously.

The possibility of intensified activities by all Communist movements throughout Asia.

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